

## R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Patel for the indication of allowable subject matter.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 3-7, 11-13, 16, 25-28 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,381; hereinafter Fuji) in view of Ganter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,112; hereinafter Ganter) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 8-10 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji and Ganter in view of Pettigrew et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,703,469; hereinafter Pettigrew) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 17-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji and Ganter in view of McNeil et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,305; hereinafter McNeil) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 21-23 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji and Ganter in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,333; hereinafter Kobayashi) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter of claim 12 has been incorporated into claim 3. Subject matter similar to the allowable matter of claim 12 has been incorporated into claim 16. As such, the

presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references (see paragraph no. 31 on page 19 of the Office Action) and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-11, 13, and 17-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 3 or claim 16 which are believed to be allowable. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference (see paragraph no. 31 on page 19 of the Office Action) and the rejections should be withdrawn.

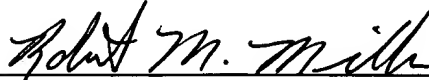
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit  
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert M. Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Miller  
Registration No. 42,892

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c/o Henry Groth  
LSI Logic Corporation  
1621 Barber Lane, M/S D-106 Legal  
Milpitas, CA 95035

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